



To: The Honorable Members of the Washington State Building Code Council
Date: October 5, 2009

Dear Council Members,

My name is Roger Roosendaal and I am Co-Owner of a residential and commercial construction company located in Bellingham, Washington. I am aware that before the council at this moment is a proposal to adopt fire sprinklers into private residences. I feel this proposal is a mistake and should definitely not be adopted and I would like to explain why;

New homes are already being built with the highest regard for fire safety. Monitored alarm systems, fire walls, smoke detectors, egress windows and fire rated building materials have all contributed to a 54% reduction in fire deaths since 1977.

The costs of these residential systems will far exceed what you are currently being told. Not only must we as builders factor in the cost of the system itself but we must also a separate water hookup and meter, monitoring, backflow preventers, leak detection, phone monitoring lines, and backups all are currently required for commercial buildings and would also be required for residential as well. In a time when we as builders are turning over every stone we can to provide affordable housing, this would break our backs.

In rural areas where no public water is available, private wells are the only means to provide potable water to the site. It will be virtually impossible to provide the required fire flow from one of these private wells. At best this would require a separate power supply, reservoir tank, pumps and monitoring. At worst it will kill the project completely.

By preventing the affordability of new home this requirement would force people into buying the older less safe homes and increase the risk of fire related deaths instead of decreasing that risk.

In conclusion, I ask you to consider more that what the fire officials are telling you. They have lobbied long and hard for something that does not require a wide spread code change. People have the option to do install a sprinkler system if they desire. To adopt a wide spread code change will be another nail in the coffin of affordable housing in Washington and substantially reduce our ability to pull out of this recession.

Please vote NO.
Thank You,

Roger Roosendaal
Roosendaal-Honcoop Construction Inc.